

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Vermont recognizes February as Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Month in commemoration of all patients and caregivers impacted by this rare, lethal cancer; and

WHEREAS, cholangiocarcinoma starts in the bile duct, a thin tube, about four to five inches long, that reaches from the liver to the small intestine; and

WHEREAS, there are two types of cholangiocarcinoma: intrahepatic and extrahepatic, and the mortality rate has increased dramatically in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 8,000 people in the United States develop cholangiocarcinoma each year, and almost two out of three of those diagnosed are 65 or older when it is found; and

WHEREAS, patients are typically diagnosed at a late stage due to no validated early method of detection and symptoms of jaundice, abdominal pain, itchy skin and weight loss do not usually present till advanced disease progression; and

WHEREAS, the chances of survival for patients with bile duct cancer depends to a large extent on its location and how advanced it is when it is found; and

WHEREAS, rare cancers have a five-year survival rate under 50% with the cholangiocarcinoma five-year survival rate being approximately 20%; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no cure for cholangiocarcinoma, yet the FDA has approved durvalumab (Imfinzi) creating a new standard of care for cholangiocarcinoma patients with the combination of immunotherapy and chemotherapy; and

WHEREAS, foundations, research and teaching hospitals, rare cancer advocacy groups, and patient advocacy groups from around the globe have joined forces to recognize February as Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Month; and

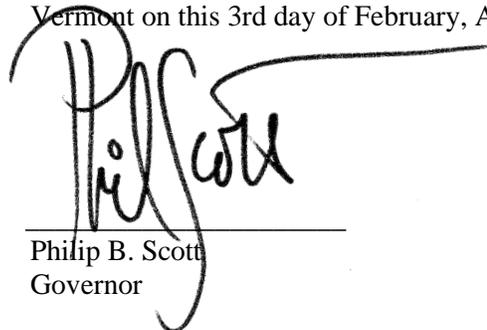
WHEREAS, increased cholangiocarcinoma advocacy, awareness, research, and education will bring improved outcomes for patients in earlier detection and treatment and potential curative methods.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim February 2023 as

CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 3rd day of February, A.D. 2023.



Philip B. Scott
Governor





Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs